



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

**MERRILL HONORS FOURTH GRADERS
FROM ACROSS CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR
AWARD WINNING POSTERS**

CONNECTICUT'S POSTER CHILDREN: BLENDING ART WITH A MESSAGE OF
GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Hartford – Secretary of the State Denise Merrill joined dozens of 4th graders from across Connecticut on Thursday, May 16, 2013 in the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol in Hartford for an awards ceremony honoring the winners of the Secretary of the State's 18th Annual Poster Contest. Secretary Merrill honored 40 students – selected from a field of more than 500 entrants from nearly 50 participating elementary schools – for their posters depicting acts of good citizenship happening in their community. The winning posters are viewable online by [clicking here](#)

“I always encouraged my own children to explore their imaginations, so it was wonderful to see young students from across Connecticut engage with their creativity, and produce beautiful posters,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. “It was far from easy selecting the top three posters from each of the five Congressional districts; all entries were unique and expressive. But, I am so thrilled to have the award-winning pieces displayed in the Capitol building. Our young people can be an inspiration for what good citizenship looks like.”

The top five posters came from students in the following elementary schools: Wolcott Elementary School in West Hartford, Haddam Elementary School, Francis E. Korn Elementary School in Durham, Wolfpit Elementary School in Norwalk, and the Carrington Elementary School in Waterbury.

“The theme of the contest is ‘Good Citizenship Happening in Our Community’. This contest motivated students to look within their communities and see the democracy occurring in their towns,” said Secretary Merrill. “By making children aware of these opportunities within their community at a young age, we can only hope that it encourages the next generation of Connecticut leaders to demonstrate how to get involved in their local community and give back to their city or town. This is how we start civic engagement.”

Five winning posters were selected from divisions established by the Office of the Secretary of the State. Each division consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored at Thursday's event received a certificate of recognition, and gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore.



2013 Poster Contest Winners

Student information is listed below:

Office of the Secretary of the State's
2013 4th Grade Poster Contest Winners
"Good Citizenship is Happening in Our Community"

1st Place Winners:

Chandni & Chloe Nollet, Wolcott Elementary School, West Hartford
Meara Bodak, Haddam Elementary School, Higganum
Brandon Tang, Francis E. Korn Elementary School, Durham
Daniel Norena, Wolfpit Elementary School, Norwalk
Kevin Lush & Justin Vo, Carrington Elementary School, Waterbury

2nd Place Winners:

Sam Hedlund & Jack Dufresne, Martin Elementary School, Manchester
Emma Braithwaite & Julie Morris, Putnam Elementary School, Putnam
Teal Graziano, Grove J. Tuttle School, East Haven
Tessa Neilsen, Wolfpit Elementary School, Norwalk
Viola Flowers & Jillian Boland, BW Tinker School, Waterbury

3rd Place Winners:

Joelle Brown & Braxton Palmer, Montessori Magnet: CREC, Hartford
Sofia Romeo, Annie E. Vinton School, Mansfield
Chace Brennan, Washington Elementary School, West Haven
Anastasia Mardovina, Mill Hill Elementary School, Fairfield
Tasha Jaworski & Kristine Tita, James Morris School, Morris

Honorable Mention Winners:

Leah Bieu & Annabelle Watson, Martin Elementary School, Manchester
Lissandra Diaz Olea & Sarah Jaquith, Annie E. Vinton School, Mansfield
Laura Lacasse, Annie E. Vinton School, Mansfield
Abigail Trautner & Erika Schevling, Bear Path Elementary School, Hamden
Sofia Zavatore-Veth, Spring Glen Elementary School, Hamden
Grace Callanan & Grace Shawah, Fawn Hollow Elementary School, Monroe
Gabrielle Picon & Lauren Davis, Fawn Hollow Elementary School, Monroe
Tabitha Baker, Wolfpit Elementary School, Norwalk
Alexandra Castro & Molly Bomann, Daniels Farm School, Trumbull
Anais Valenzuela, Washington Elementary, Waterbury
Kyan Konareski & Jennifer O'Connor, Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School,
Waterbury

Photos of winners available upon request.